



Express Toll Lanes

Maryland transportation leaders are considering a new initiative to ease the impact of traffic congestion on many of the State's busiest highways.

Express Toll Lanes:

- Offer an alternative funding strategy for major roads, which would not be possible even during the next 30-50 years through current funding.
- Offer motorists an option of paying a toll to travel on lanes that are relatively congestion free.
- Offer transit users reliable travel times.
- Add new lanes to the State's most severely congested major highways (and in some instances, possibly converting an existing lane).
- Apply demand-management techniques to maintain relatively congestion-free travel over time.



How Express Toll Lanes Work

Express Toll Lanes give motorists a choice of paying a fee (or toll) to avoid congestion by driving in separate, relatively congestion-free lanes when needed most.

Express Toll Lanes:

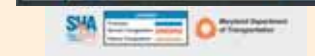
- Tolls would be collected electronically at highway speeds via a transponder (no tollbooths).
 - ♦ Similar to Maryland's E-ZPassSM system where the toll is deducted automatically from a driver's account.
- Cost of the toll would vary to manage the capacity.
 - ♦ Time of day – morning and evening rush hours could cost more based on the need for a congestion-free trip.
 - ♦ Traffic conditions – toll rates would increase as traffic conditions worsen; rates would decrease when there is extra capacity.
- Similar to peak-period and discount programs offered by utilities, airlines, transit systems, movie theatres, etc.
 - ♦ Drivers choose to pay a fee for services at peak periods or for premium service.

Why We Need Express Toll Lanes

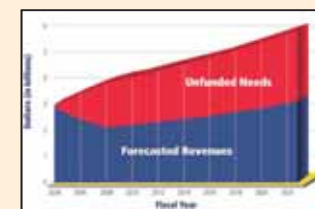
Maryland's roadways are among the most congested in the country, with motorists and transit users spending too much of their time sitting idle in traffic.

- There has been a 20% increase in vehicle miles of travel on Maryland's highways since 1995 – but only a 4% increase in vehicle lane miles during the same period.
- The Baltimore-Washington region is one of the worst areas in the country in the time it takes to commute to work.
- Millions of people who rely on the State's highways to travel to work, school or other everyday travel are sitting in traffic.
 - ♦ Including Maryland businesses that rely on the transportation network to move material and goods.

Severe and Heavily Congested Freeways



Maryland's severe resource and fiscal constraints mean creative approaches are needed to relieve the impact of traffic congestion.



- The Dept. of Transportation is committed to making tangible and near-term improvements to traffic flow throughout the State to achieve a vision of a *More Mobile Maryland*.
- A "congestion tax" in time lost sitting idle in traffic is levied on those who rely on the State's highways to commute or for other everyday travel.

